

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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THE FOL TEL FROM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS DATED JAN 11, 1974
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SUBJ: AGENDA FOR JANUARY 14-15 EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS)
MEETING

1. THE FIRST COUNCIL OF (FOREIGN) MINISTERS MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF THE NEW YEAR WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY
14-15. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL IS EXPECTED TO BE IN THE
CHAIR. A SEPARATE COUNCIL MEETING OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS WILL
ALSO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 14 (EC BRUSSELS 106). THE MAJOR
SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE REGIONAL
POLICY (SEE EC BRUSSELS 123) AND ENERGY (SEE EC BRUSSELS 149),
IN THAT ORDER. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE COUNCIL WILL
GET TO THE ENERGY ITEM LATE ON MONDAY OR ON TUESDAY.

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2. REGIONAL POLICY. AFTER HAVING STOPPED THE CLOCK ON DECEMBER 18 OVER FAILURE TO AGREE ON THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL TAKE UP THE PROBLEM AGAIN ON JANUARY 14. AS REPORTS FROM SEVERAL OTHER POSTS INDICATE, THE BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS ORGANIZED BY THE GERMANS WITH THE UK, FRANCE AND ITALY, AND WITH EC COMMISSIONER THOMSON, HAVE NOT YET SUCCEEDED IN REACHING A COMPROMISE WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY APPROVAL.

3. ACCORDING TO A GERMAN PERMREP SOURCE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE, IN WHICH CASE EITHER A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE SCHEDULED LATER IN JANUARY OR THE SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED AGAIN AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 4-5. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE PROSPECTS FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE UNEXPECTEDLY IMPROVE OVER THE WEEKEND OR AS A RESULT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, OUR SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE MINISTERS COULD INSTRUCT THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS AND THE MEMBER STATES COULD THEN GIVE THEIR APPROVAL THROUGH THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE.

4. ENERGY. THERE ARE TWO ENERGY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. FIRST, THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THOSE ENERGY POINTS WHICH WERE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 17-18 MEETING BUT WERE NOT DISCUSSED BECAUSE OF THE REGIONAL POLICY IMPASSE, I.E. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED EC ENERGY COMMITTEE (AS DECIDED AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT) AND THE APPROVAL OF A NEW REGULATION REQUIRING MEMBER STATES TO PROVIDE CURRENT INFORMATION ON THEIR OIL SITUATION TO THE COMMISSION. THE SECOND ENERGY AGENDA ITEM WILL BE A DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION; IT IS AT THIS POINT, ACCORDING TO OUR GERMAN PERMREP SOURCE, THAT THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT (GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL) WILL ASK THE MINISTERS TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO AN ENERGY CONFERENCE.

5. OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE:

A. A DECLARATION BY THE GERMANS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS TO BE WORKED ON DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS UNDER THEIR PRESIDENCY AND WHAT THEY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH;
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B. THE RESOLUTION ON SECOND STAGE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (EC BRUSSELS 7389 OF DECEMBER 19);

C. BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT;

D. IMPROVING THE WORKING METHODS OF THE COUNCIL;

E. THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN PREPARING THE REPORT
ON EUROPEAN UNION (REQUESTED BY THE 1972 PARIS EC SUMMIT); AND

F. THE RELATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES BOTH IN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK AND WITH REGARD TO
TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 7128 OF
DECEMBER 7 AND 7415 OF DECEMBER 20).

6. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRINCIPAL AND MOST DIFFICULT
AGENDA ITEMS ARE REGIONAL POLICY AND ENERGY. HOWEVER, THE OTHER
SUBJECTS ALSO INCLUDE SOME POLITICALLY SENSITIVE MATTERS,
SUCH AS MEDITERRANEAN TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. IT IS
UNCLEAR AT THIS STAGE OF COURSE, WHETHER THE COUNCIL CAN
GET THROUGH SUCH A FULL AGENDA MUCH LESS REACH AGREEMENT
ON ALL OF THE ITEMS AND WHETHER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO
KEEP THE COMMUNITY CLOCK STOPPED. MYERSON

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